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BARTLETT'S MUCH-TALKED-OF LAFAYETTE STATUE

There is a grave international scandal hanging over France and the United States. We may call it, for convenience' sake, the scandal of the statue, the reference being to the statue of Lafayette, which the school children of the United States are supposed to have presented to France. Every year since the present plaster cast was erected there have been grumblings and murmurings and curious questions asked about the statue. Americans living in Paris have grown uneasy, and feel that disgrace has been put upon them by their own people. Americans visiting Paris are disappointed at not seeing the great bronze equestrian statue of Lafayette, for which the school children of the United States have paid.

Matters have been made worse by the fact that the old plaster cast which does duty for a statue is now in a dilapidated condition. Some two years ago a hoof fell off the horse and a boot off the hero. Paul Wayland Bartlett, the sculptor, patched the parts together and did the whole over with bronze paint. The patched and painted horse and man deceived the eye for about eighteen months. Now the thing is once more weather worn. The horse's neck is arched wrongly, his tail is superlatively twisted, and big white spots appear on his shoulders and sides as the paint falls off. Furthermore, the young general looks knee-knocked. Under these circumstances it is not wonderful that people ask why the committee does not report. Why is the statue not erected? Who has the money?

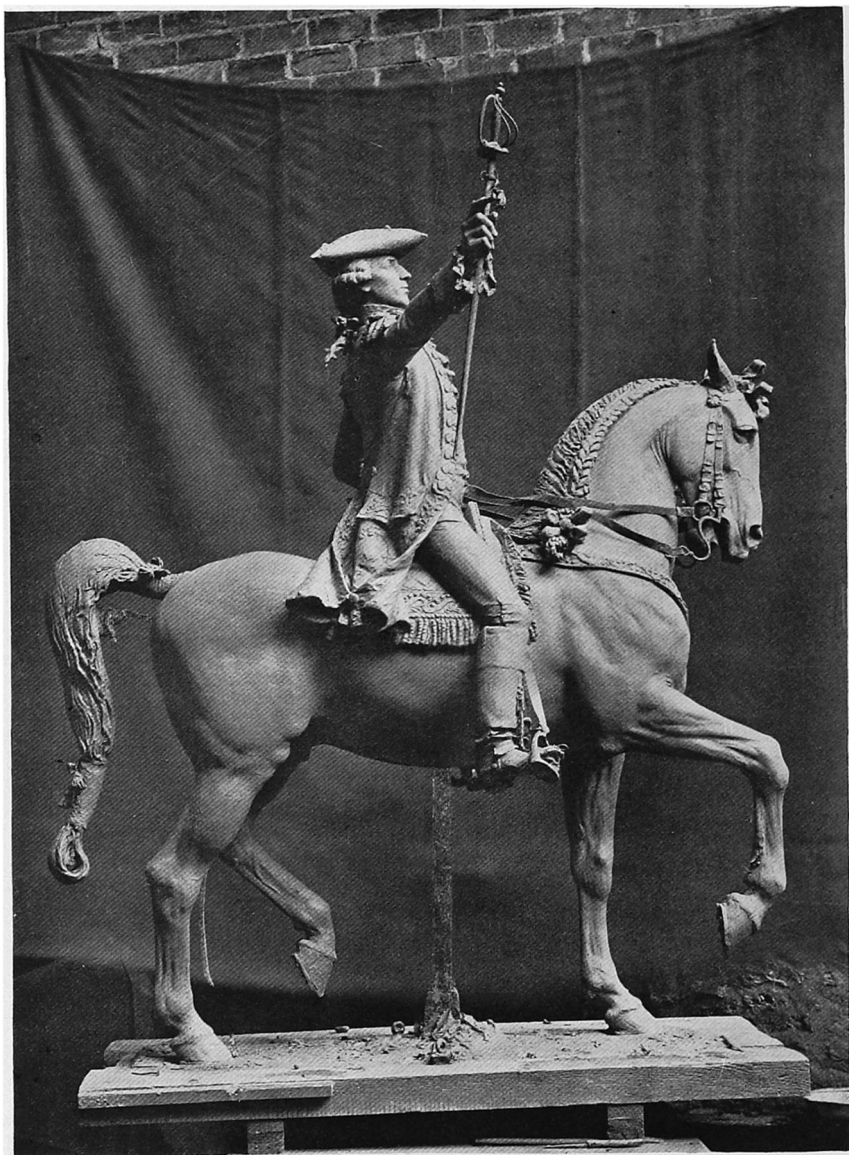
J. J. CONWAY. (Courtesy of Curtis Brown.)



ANOTHER LAY-OBJECTOR IN ART MATTERS

A few months ago the public was amused at the dispute between Dr. Huntington and Gutzon Borglum over the sex of angels — a dispute that resulted in hammering two inoffensive creations into fragments. Now comes another contention — likewise inspired by the church — as regards the propriety of putting Miss Violet Oakley's paintings on the walls of the new state-house at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Are art and the church at outs?

The Federation of Catholic Societies of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Chapter, Knights of Columbus last January united in a protest against Miss Oakley's pictures being placed in the new capitol, insisting that they violate the truth of history, are improper for the decoration of a public building of the State, and should not be placed in the capitol. The new Capitol Commission is acquitted of any intention to wound the sensibilities of Catholics, yet these bodies think that the Commission, architect,



STATUE OF LAFAYETTE
By Paul Wayland Bartlett
Unveiled in the Plaster in Paris on July 4, 1900

